



PROCEEDINGS
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A NEW FORM OF MYIOBORUS FROM NORTHERN
SOUTH AMERICA.

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Examination of considerable series of specimens has indicated to the authors, working independently, that there are two races of *Myioborus miniatus* in the range currently accepted for *M. m. pallidiventris* (Chapman). The one here separated may be known as

Myioborus miniatus ballux subsp. nov.

Characters.—Similar to *Myioborus miniatus verticalis* (Lafresnaye and d'Orbigny)¹ but with white on outer rectrices definitely less extensive.

Similar to *Myioborus miniatus pallidiventris* (Chapman)² but color below deeper, more orange, especially on the breast.

Similar also to *Myioborus miniatus aurantiacus* (Baird)³ but paler yellow below; white on outer rectrices more extensive.

Description.—Type, Coll. W. H. Phelps no. 9263, ♂, gonads slightly enlarged, from 1600 meters elevation near Queniquea, Táchira, Venezuela, collected November 7, 1940, by F. Benedetti. (Type on deposit in the United States National Museum).

Posterior part of pileum in center Kaiser brown with an overlying wash of chestnut; feathers of forepart of crown dull black centrally, margined with slate color, producing a spotted appearance; a narrow border of dull black on either side of brown crown patch; loreal region dull black, this color extending over malar area and the lower eyelid; sides of head, including space above eye, and dorsal surface between deep and dark neutral gray; upper tail-coverts dull black; wing-coverts dark neutral gray; remiges dusky neutral gray; rectrices dull black, the outer pair white almost to the under tail-coverts, the next pair with a slightly larger area of basal black, the third pair with half the outer web white with a

¹ *Setophaga verticalis* Lafresnaye and d'Orbigny, Syn. Av., Mag. Zool., vol. 7, 1837, p. 50, cl. 2, pls. 77 to 79 (Ayupaya, Bolivia).

² *Setophaga verticalis pallidiventris* Chapman, Bull. Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist., vol. 12, August 5, 1899, p. 153 (Quebrada Seca, Sucre, Venezuela).

³ *Setophaga aurantiaca* Baird, Rev. Amer. Birds, vol. 1, May, 1865, p. 261 (Dota Mountains, southern Costa Rica).

narrow blackish external border reaching past the level of the white on the inner web and the inner part of the inner web white for the distal fourth, the fourth pair with a faint linear spot of white at the tip of the outer web; sides of throat deep neutral gray; center of throat dull black, with a slight overwash of deep neutral gray; breast and abdomen between light cadmium and aniline yellow; a wash of dark primuline yellow on upper breast, forming an indefinite spot; under wing-coverts mixed whitish and neutral gray; under tail-coverts white. Maxilla blackish; mandible, tarsus and feet aniline black (from dried skin).

Measurements.—Males, 34 specimens, wing 62.6–69.5 (65.9), tail⁴ 60.2–67.2 (63.0), culmen from base⁴ 11.5–13.3 (12.3), tarsus 17.0–19.2 (18.2) mm.

Females, 17 specimens, wing⁵ 58.7–63.6 (61.4), tail 56.7–62.0 (59.4), culmen from base⁵ 11.0–12.7 (12.0), tarsus 17.0–18.3 (17.7) mm.

Type, male, 65.2, tail 60.2, culmen from base 11.7, tarsus 18.4 mm.

Range.—The lower part of the Upper Tropical Zone, and the higher portions of the Lower Tropical Zone of western Venezuela through the mountains of southeastern Lara (Cubiro), Trujillo (El Rincón in the Cerro Niquitáz, Altamira, Páramo Misisi), Barinas (1300 meters above Altamira), Mérida (Mérida, Escorial, La Culata, La Hechiza, Timotes, Quintero, El Valle), and Táchira (Bramón, Queniquea, Seboruco, and Las Delicias and Villa Paez below the Páramo de Tamá), also on Mount Roraima, Bolívar, Mount Duida,⁶ Amazonas and Mount Twek-quay, British Guiana; the whole of Colombia (except the Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta) from the Sierra Perijá, (Tierra Nueva, Monte Elias, La Africa, Laguna de Junco and Eroca) and Atlántico (Los Pendales) southward through Ecuador. Also on Mt. Pirri, in southeastern Darién, Panamá.

Remarks.—Four males and one female in the Phelps collection from Arabupu on Mt. Roraima seem very faintly darker but otherwise are identical with typical *ballux*, especially in the deep, rich color below. The dark race seemingly extends widely through the highlands of Bolívar and Amazonas. The birds in the U. S. National Museum secured by E. A. Goldman on Mt. Pirri above the Río Tuira in the highlands of southeastern Darién are placed here provisionally, as the series of four males and five females seen agree with *ballux* in color. They show some tendency toward greater restriction of the white on the outer rectrix, in this indicating slight approach to *aurantiacus* of western Panamá, and also have the tail averaging a very little smaller, in males this being 54.8 and in females 57.2 mm.

A series from the Sierra de Perijá in Colombia, including specimens from Tierra Nueva and Monte Elias at the northern end of the range, La Africa, Laguna de Junco and above Eroca near the central part of the range, in the Departamento Magdalena, and from Convención at the south in the Departamento Norte de Santander are definitely inter-

⁴ 33 specimens.

⁵ 16 specimens.

⁶ See Chapman, Bull. Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist., vol. 63, 1931, pp. 114–116.

mediate between *pallidiventris*, as represented by birds from the Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta, and *ballux*, but are nearer the latter.

While the range as here given includes Ecuador, birds of the western part of that country are probably separable on the basis of restricted black on the head.⁷

We have available an excellent series of *M. m. pallidiventris* (Chapman) which, as here restricted, ranges through the mountains of northern Venezuela from Sucre, the highlands of Falcón, to Cerro El Cerrón in northern Lara, north of the Cordillera de los Andes which is inhabited by the new form. We have examined specimens from Venezuela from the following localities. Sucre (Quebrada Seca the type locality, Montaña del Guacharo, and Los Palmares), Anzoátegui (Quebrada Bonita and Cerro El Peonía near Bergantín), Miranda (Mariches, Pico Nai-guatá and Hacienda Izcaragua), Distrito Federal (San José de Los Caracas, El Junquito, Cumbre La Culebrilla on El Avila, and Junquito Road), Aragua (Colonia Továr, Cerro Golfo Triste near San Casimiro, Rancho Grande), Carabobo (Las Quiguas, Chirgua), Falcon (San Luis), Lara (Quebrada Arriba and Cerro El Cerrón, near Carora.)

Measurements of *pallidiventris* from Venezuela are as follows:

Males, 20 specimens, wing 58.8–68.8 (63.4), tail 57.4–63.1 (60.7), culmen from base 11.4–12.5 (12.1), tarsus 17.0–18.8 (18.0) mm.

Females, 14 specimens, wing 57.4–65.9 (61.0), tail 54.8–63.4 (59.3), culmen from base 11.0–12.5 (12.0), tarsus 16.8–18.5 (17.7) mm.

The birds of the Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta, Colombia in series are faintly different from birds of eastern Venezuela in very slightly lighter gray above, and faintly paler yellow on the posterior lower parts. On the average they have less orange on the upper breast. They are so close, however, that we have allocated them to *pallidiventris*.

There are in *pallidiventris* therefore three distinct population groups, one in Colombia, in the Sierra Nevada, and two in Venezuela, viz., in the Cordillera de la Costa with its outlying ranges to the west, and in the less elevated, isolated mountains of Sucre, Anzoátegui and Monagas in the northeast.

⁷ See Chapman, Bull. Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist., vol. 55, 1926, p. 597.